Notes on meeting with Guy Johnson on August 24, 1967, at 2001 American Bank Building, New Orleans (524-5517). Formerly Rachivitch, Johnson, Wegmann and Mouldoux, American Bank Building.

Meeting lasted approximately 2 hours.

Johnson had surmised my interest in Gordon Novel and Walter Sheridan. He prefaced his statements with a gratuitous opinion of Garrison: 'he was always nuts, but he has gone completely over the line now'.

Johnson was strangely silent when I asked him about Gurvich. He thought it very unlikely that he was a "plant" but had not explanation for Gurvich's 'fection and defection'. He figures Gurvich may just have sickened with Garrison. However, Gurvich is a 2nd generation New Orleans detective. Query?

Now:

(1.) Gordon Novel--Flim flam artist that got much money out of local gamblers for alleged electronics work--Loves publicity. According to Johnson, Novel is a publicity hound and eventually will come back to New Orleans for publicity reasons.

Johnson does not know if Novel has a family or assets here.

Novel has called Johnson several times collect and asked him to represant him in New Orleans. Refused. Also other good lawyers have refused and Johnson says this is why Novel has stayed away. Query

Johnson says that arranging Not to be extradited is not too difficult. Query.

Now--and however--Novel is a particularly hot item for at least one reason that Johnson knows (and guesses that Novel knows) i.e., he possesses a copy of a letter which would indicate that a high federal official (probably RFK) early in 1961 issued the equivalent of a letter of marque to Harry Bannister to steal a large quantity of guns and there are indications that he did steal the guns, many (some?) were shipped to Cuba and anti-Castro rebels but money fell into hands of Castro and were used against "liberators" at the Bay of Pigs.

Genesis of story according to Johnson: Bannister was a former Chief of Police and a hell of a good one. Too good. Many wanted him out. Knew his weakness in later years for whiskey and gals and caught him in a hopeless scandal. But Bannister (now dead) was a violent anti-Castro activist. Early in 1961 he found out about a large cache of guns (10,000?) which had originally been destined for rebels in French West Indies. Never used. Stored in Houma, La. Bannister wanted to steal them and ship them to anti-Castro rebels still in Cuba. Bannister went to Washington

(3). Walter Sheridan's current lawyer is Milton Brenner (Room 1304, National Bank of Commerce Building) (524-1171). 2nd rate. Real legal advice comes from Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitvent, Carrere and Denegre, NBC's lawyer in New Orleans.

and saw a "high official" who apparently gave him a letter of Marque. (First since time of Jefferson)--The point: Gordon Novel helped Bannister in the scheme (did scouting in Hauma) and Bannister gave him a copy of the letter which he is believed to possess.

How about Bannister's own original copy? After he died his creditors took his books and papers. They were split principally between Hubert J. BADEAUX, local private eye (not in New Orleans book, must be near-by town) and Cy Courtney, National Bank of Commerce Building (522-9986), a lawyer, right winger and minor publisher. They have all or most of papers. No reasons to believe that they know of the letter of Marque or its significance. Some papers possibly with Mrs. Bannister's or some other "crazy woman" whose name Johnson couldn't remember.

Johnson is an unsatisfied creditor of Bannister estate and could get a suit going which would allow him to subpoena the papers. Several preliminary offers from news agencies to take this action. They would never meet his price ($10,000).